



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

# NEWS RELEASE

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## PRESS OFFICE

**Release Date:** April 19, 2019

**Contact:** [Ryan.Brissette@SBA.gov](mailto:Ryan.Brissette@SBA.gov) (401) 528-4630

**Release Number:** RI19-28

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### **SBA Names Warren's Wise Mouth Tea the 2019 Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year**

**Providence, RI** –The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named Lei Nichols, owner of Wise Mouth Tea, the 2019 Minority-Owned Small Business. Working out of Hope & Main in Warren, Wise Mouth Tea is a producer of hand-brewed, natural teas, made with real tea leaves, fresh fruits, and herbs. The story of Wise Mouth Tea begins in the remote Chinese village of Shanzui, where young Lei learned the art of Chinese tea from her family, often helping her grandmother sundry chrysanthemum leaves for healing tea. Wise Mouth has since gone on to expand their offerings to seven different kinds of all natural teas that continue to be hand-brewed with the same quality and attention to detail that has become synonymous with the brand.

“I would like to congratulate Lei on being named the Rhode Island Minority-Owned Small Business of the year,” said SBA District Director, Mark S. Hayward. “Taking something she was passionate about and creating a brand that is continuing to spread across the U.S. is an incredible feat and a great Rhode Island success story,” he added.

This award is open to any individual or individuals who qualify as a minority, owns and operates a small business, has been in business for a minimum of three years, and has received SBA assistance.

The Rhode Island “Salute of Small Business” Awards luncheon will be held on May 10, and will honor all of the Rhode Island awardees and their exceptional small business accomplishments. For more information about the award winners or the “Salute to Small Business” Awards Luncheon, contact Ryan Brissette at [Ryan.Brissette@SBA.gov](mailto:Ryan.Brissette@SBA.gov), 401-528-4630.

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#### **About the U.S. Small Business Administration**

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

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